

## REMARKS

Claim 1, which was pending for the purpose of obtaining a filing date, is canceled. Claims 14-27 are added by this supplemental preliminary amendment.

The amendments to the specification are made to correct typographical and grammatical errors in the original disclosure, as well as include the patent number and issuance information for material incorporated by reference in the original disclosure. These amendments do not add any new matter.

The amendments to the claims are supported by the disclosure as originally filed and no new matter is added. Support for claims 14-27 may be found in Figure 3 and the corresponding description, such as on page 11, lines 6-15 and page 12, lines 13-18, and in Figure 2 and its corresponding description, such as on page 14, lines 11-16.

Specifically with respect to claims 19 and 38, those claims recite that network management packets are received via a private network associated with a software-replicated home agent. This aspect of the claims is supported in the disclosure on page 15, line 11 through page 16, line 2, which describes management of software-replicated home agents by customers over the Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) with which the individual software-replicated home agents are associated.

Further, specifically with respect to claim 25, that claim recites that the sorting module and the two or more software-replicated home agents are assigned a single IP address. The disclosure contemplates such an embodiment on page 16, lines 16-17 which recites that "...preferably each home agent is assigned or associate with a unique IP address." While this portion of the description describes a preferred embodiment having unique IP addresses each

home agent having a unique IP address, it clearly contemplates embodiments where each home agent does not have a unique IP address, such as embodiments where a single IP address is assigned, as recited in claim 24.

Still further, specifically with respect to claim 28, Figure 3 illustrates that the mobile home agent address sorter 56 and homes agents 62A, 62B ... 62N may be implemented as separate entities in the chassis (computing platform) 26. Of course, additional support exists in the specification, and these citations are given by way of example.


### **Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request an early indication of such allowance. If there are any issues the Examiner feels may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 360-379-6514.

Respectfully Submitted,

**McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP**

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By:   
Paul W. Churilla  
Reg. No. 47,495